



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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President of Hmong Wisconsin Chamber Wins Wisconsin's SBA 2006 Minority Small Business Champion Award

Milwaukee: Choj (Charles) Vang, Owner/President of Charles Vang-Agency - American Family has won Wisconsin's SBA 2006 Minority Small Business Champion Award.

Charles is the son of a prominent officer in the Secret War that Hmong fought between the U.S. and Vietnamese during the conflict. He was born in Laos in 1962 and, shortly thereafter, the Vietnamese retaliated against the Hmong people. Charles and his family fled Laos to the Ba Zi Nia camp for refugees in Thailand and, in 1970, they came to the United States and Wisconsin.

Charles demonstrates his efforts to improve conditions in the minority small business community by constantly speaking for such organizations as WHEDA, Hmong American Friendship Association, American Family, Hmong New Year Celebration and other community development organizations. He has helped a number of businesses find grants, guarantee programs, and neighborhood organizations that work in tandem with the business to achieve success.

Although Charles specializes in insurance sales, he also helps his community find access to capital. He is committed to advancing minority small business interests within his community, city and state by serving as President of the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce. He is on the Loan Board (Governor Appointed) of the Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development and a member of the Advisory Board for Wisconsin Insurance Commission, Board for the private Industry Council, Board for Layton Boulevard West Neighbors and Board for Hmong National Development. He is willing to take a chance on start-up businesses when renting space in his commercial properties and then spends time providing technical assistance to help them achieve success. He helps minorities in his community with things such as filing tax ID numbers, simple LLC documents and simple Offers to Purchase. Through his business, he makes sure that his community is adequately protected with auto, life and other forms of insurance.

The winner of this award is determined by volunteer efforts beyond business/professional responsibilities to advance minority small business interests/community, state or nation. Demonstrated efforts to improve conditions in the minority small business community as a whole, not solely for individual personal advancement. Voluntary provision of professional services to the minority small business community. Demonstrated accomplishments in advising minority small business groups of opportunities within the overall business community and other accomplishments that demonstrate the nominee's merit as an effective advocate for minority small business.

Mr. Vang has some thoughts for Hmong entrepreneurs who are thinking of starting their own business: "Develop private corporations to meet the needs of future Hmong generations, and even if some fall, others will prosper." "All Hmong businesses should have a good business plan and entrepreneurs should be prepared to fail and, in the event they do, have the resources to get right back up and try again."

Charles has helped numerous individuals achieve success in their business and has become a true leader of a community that is looking for new leaders in their new home. Charles will receive his award at SBA's 21st Small Business Awards Breakfast on Friday, May 19, 2006 at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha. For more information on the Breakfast, call (414) 297-1093.

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available
at SBA's Web site: www.sba.gov and Wisconsin's SBA Website: www.sba.gov/wi*

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